

APPENDIX II - NOAA Small Boat Visual Identification and Numbering
Draft 9d, August 20, 2002

A. PURPOSE.

.01 This Appendix defines visual identification requirements for NOAA boats.

.02 This Appendix defines the requirements of a hull registration system in order to comply with United States Code and to maintain an accurate centralized inventory of NOAA boats.

B. RESPONSIBILITY.

.01 NOAA activities that operate boats are responsible for:

- a. complying as closely as practicable to the visual identification guidelines listed in item C. of this Appendix; and
- b. registering any new boat or existing boat not already registered with the NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator for the purpose of assigning a NOAA hull registration number.

.02 The NOAA Small Boat Program shall be responsible for issuing hull registration numbers.

C. VISUAL IDENTIFICATION.

.01 NOAA Emblem. Display of the NOAA emblem is intended to promote public awareness of NOAA activities. Questions relating to the placement of the NOAA emblem shall be directed to the NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator.

a. Broadside Position.

1. On boats which have a cabin, deck house, or a steering console, NOAA emblems shall be placed on both the port and starboard side of the cabin, deck house, or console at a location which is least obstructed from a clear broadside view. Emblems shall be sized to be as large as possible for the available surface area.

2. On boats without a cabin, deck house, or steering console, NOAA emblems shall be placed on the forward portion of both the port and starboard bow.

b. Transom Position.

1. Boats with a full and unobscured transom shall display the NOAA emblem centered on the transom. The emblem shall be sized to be as large as possible for the available surface area and must account for the area required for the hull registration number placement below the emblem.

2. Catamarans, canoes, and other boats with either insufficient transom area to adequately

display the NOAA emblem in a centered position, or boats with a transom obscured by a centerline notch, bracket, ramp or other device, shall display the NOAA emblem on the port side of the transom outboard of the hull registration number. Emblems placed on the transom in this position shall be sized as closely as possible to match the font of the NOAA hull registration number.

c. Optional Position. An additional NOAA emblem may be displayed on the port and starboard bow of any class motorboat or SRV when the size of the bow provides adequate surface area and it is determined that the additional NOAA Emblems enhance the boat marking scheme.

d. NOAA Emblem Ordering. Current and additional information pertaining to ordering NOAA Emblems can be found on the NOAA Small Boat Program web site.

.02 Line and Staff Office Specific Boat Marking.

a. NOAA Line and Staff Offices may develop specific boat marking schemes. Specific boat marking schemes shall be applied consistently to all boats owned by the Line or Staff Office. Specific boat marking schemes shall not infringe upon, be similar, or able to be construed as being similar to, any existing vessel marking schemes in use by any vessel, or fleet of vessels, either public or private.

b. Line and Staff Office programs or facilities may display the program or facility name on their boats. Program or facility name lettering shall follow the guidelines for boat name and hull registration numbers as closely as practicable.

.03 Boat Name and Hull Registration Number. Boat name and hull registration numbers shall be:

- a. block shaped capital letters in sans-serif (Arial) type font;
- b. of a color providing contrast with the background hull color, usually black; and,
- c. sized as follows:
 - 1. Motorboat Class A - 3 inches;
 - 2. Motorboat Class I - 3 inches;
 - 3. Motorboat Class II - 6 inches;
 - 4. Motorboat Class III - 6 inches; and
 - 5. Small Research Vessel - 9 inches.

NOTE: Exhibits I through IV to this Appendix provide examples of appropriate markings for

different boat configurations to assist in complying with the intent of items C.01 and C.03 of this Appendix.

.04 Hulls. The hull of boats shall comply with the following visual guidelines.

a. Fiberglass. Color shall be that of pigment used in the original fiberglass lay up. Programs acquiring new boats should specify a white hull when available.

b. Wood or Steel. Color shall be white. Exemptions for existing boats painted colors other than white shall be considered by the NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.

.05 Structures. The house, or any structure used to house cargo, personnel, or laboratory space which extends above the main working deck shall be white.

.06 Weight Handling Equipment. Cranes, winches, or other weight handling gear shall be black in color.

.07 Exterior Decks and Ladder Treads. To the extent possible, exterior decks and ladder treads shall be gray. Boats of fiberglass construction are exempt from this requirement.

.08 Masts and Rigging. Masts and rigging shall be black or buff.

.09 Boot Top. Boot topping, if applied, shall be black.

.10 Exemptions. Requests to exempt a boat, or deviate from the standards described in items C.01 through C.09 of this Appendix, for reasons other than those listed in items C.10a. through C.10e. shall be transmitted to the NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator for review and action by the Director, OMAO and the requesting Line Office Deputy Assistant Administrator.

a. Aluminum Structures. Marine grade aluminum hulls or structures are not required to be painted.

b. Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats. Existing rigid hull inflatable boats are exempt from the visual identification requirements. Although exempt from these items, existing rigid hull inflatable boats should attempt to comply with the identification requirements where practicable. New rigid hull inflatable boats should comply with the visual identification requirements where practicable and to the extent that it will not place unreasonable demands on Program resources.

c. Established Recognition. Existing boats with established public recognition may be granted an exemption from the visual identification requirements when this established recognition is critical to mission success or necessary to prevent harassment by marine authorities or other mariners.

d. Imminent Danger. Exemption from the visual identification requirements may be granted by

the Senior Field Manager, on a temporary basis, for boats when a significant hazard to the boat or its complement is probable or perceived due to unpopular public opinion caused by NOAA regulation or policy. Restoration of the boat to the visual identification requirements of this Order shall be at the earliest possible time after the passage of the perceived or possible threat.

e. Unique or Extreme Operating Hazards. Exemption from the visual identification requirements may be granted by the Senior Field Manager if it is determined that another marking scheme greatly enhances the visibility, and therefore safety, of a boat. For example, marking the house or hull of a boat with high contrast highlights to provide better visual detection when the boat is frequently navigated in fog or heavy weather, or is a high speed craft as defined by 46 CFR 175.400.

D. FLAGS.

.01 All Flags. When practical, all boats shall follow the policy and procedures regarding the flying or display of flags contained in NAO 201-6 "Official Flags of NOAA."

.02 Sizes. The flag of the United States shall be the highest and largest flag flown or displayed aboard a boat when other flags are flown or displayed in conjunction with the flag of the United States. Flags of the United States should comply with minimum size requirements for each class of motorboat as follows:

- a. Class A Motorboat - Determined by the Senior Field Manager;
- b. Class I Motorboat - 12 inches by 18 inches;
- c. Class II Motorboat - 16 inches by 24 inches;
- d. Class III Motorboat - 20 inches by 30 inches; and,
- e. Small Research Vessel - 24 inches by 36 inches.

E. HULL REGISTRATION NUMBERS.

.01 NOAA hull registration numbers shall be issued by the NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator. Registrations shall be composed of up to 6 characters.

- a. The first character shall be a letter and assigned as follows:

F - any boat owned by the National Marine Fisheries Service;

S - any boat owned by the National Ocean Service and primarily engaged in hydrographic survey, charting, or activities related to the testing and evaluation of hydrographic survey gear;

R - any boat owned by the Office of Atmospheric Research or National Ocean Service and

primarily engaged in research other than hydrographic survey or charting. Any boat owned by National Weather Service, or National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service; or,

None - Any boat owned by a NOAA Staff Office, such as the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

b. The second and third characters shall be a number corresponding to the overall length (LOA) of the boat measured in feet and rounded to the nearest whole foot length, or LOA as provided by the boat manufacturer.

c. The fourth, fifth, and optional sixth characters shall be a number determined by the NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator and assigned in sequential order. The optional sixth digit may be utilized when inventory in a specific length category exceeds 99 total boats.

.02 Senior Field Managers, or Responsible Persons, shall submit the following information to the Small Boat Coordinator when requesting a hull registration number:

- a. length overall (LOA);
- b. hull construction material(s);
- c. builder/brand;
- d. mission;
- e. propulsion plant type, configuration, and horsepower;
- f. responsible person;
- g. ownership (Line or Staff Office/Program); and
- h. home port or usual storage location.

.03 Hull Registration Number Display. NOAA boats shall display the hull registration number in the following manner:

a. Bow. The number shall be displayed on the forward section of the port and starboard bow. If the boat name is displayed on the port and starboard bow, the number shall appear beneath the name, left justified on the port bow, right justified on the starboard bow, and of similar size font as the boat name. The NOAA emblem, if displayed on the bow, shall be positioned forward of the boat name and hull registration number.

b. Transom. The hull registration number shall be applied to the transom of all boats as follows:

1. Full Transom - Centered below the NOAA Emblem, and sized in accordance with the

guidance in item C.03c of this Appendix.

2. Notched, Bracketed, Ramped, or Obscured transoms or transoms with insufficient area to adequately display the NOAA Emblem - On the port side, justified to the NOAA emblem and sized in accordance with item C.03c of this Appendix. Where application of item C.03c is not practical, the NOAA Emblem and hull registration number shall be sized to be as large as possible within the given area.

c. Registration Card. The NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator shall issue a registration card to every Responsible Person for each boat under their purview. The card shall be carried aboard the boat while it is being operated.

d. Variation. Variations to the display requirements for hull registration numbers shall be considered by NOAA on a case-by-case basis. Requests for variations shall be submitted by the Senior Field Manager, or designee, to the Director, OMAO, with a copy to the NOAA Small Boat Program Coordinator.

EXHIBITS:

[Exhibits removed to reduce PDF file size. Go to <http://www.sbp.noaa.gov/policy/217d1-4.html> to view the exhibits in gif/html format]

- Exhibit I - Typical Class A and I Motorboat NOAA Visual Identification and Registry Numbering, Starboard Profile with Obscured Transom
- Exhibit II - Typical Class II Motorboat Visual Identification and Registry Numbering, Starboard Profile with Obscured Transom
- Exhibit III - Typical Class III Motorboat Visual Identification and Registry Numbering, Starboard Profile with Full Transom
- Exhibit IV - Typical Small Research Vessel Visual Identification and Registry Numbering, Starboard Profile with Full Transom.